



ILLINOIS CORRECTIONS LODGE # 263
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
4341 ACER GROVE # B, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, 62711

1/1/2026

As we begin a new year, I want to sincerely thank **each and every one of you** for your membership and unwavering dedication to the Fraternal Order of Police Corrections Lodge 263—and to the profession of Corrections that we proudly serve. The lodge has seen record membership growth. With this growth, we continue to add individual facility trustees to the Executive Board. Keep spreading the word about our work and benefits.

We are excited to announce that the lodge has purchased a new custom-built food trailer that is in production now. The food trailer plays a big role showing appreciation, boosting morale and most importantly raising needed funds for officers in need! We are looking forward to getting out to facilities across the state soon. Our lobbyist is working to ensure that there are no hold ups.

Like every year, Corrections experienced its share of challenges. Through **strong unity, clear purpose, and the leadership of a dedicated Executive Board**, this Lodge successfully navigated those challenges and positioned both our organization and the Corrections profession for a strong and productive 2026.

In the year ahead, we remain firmly committed to **servicing and protecting our membership through legislative action**. We have worked diligently with our elected representatives and lobbyists to ensure the language and intent of the **“Dignity Bill”** are brought forward for a vote. This legislation is designed to ensure that the use of bodily fluids—such as urine, saliva, or feces—against correctional staff is treated as a **felony offense**. It also places a mandate on State’s Attorneys to enforce this law, addressing a long-standing failure to fully prosecute these acts. Tragically, last year two known members of this Lodge suffered **life-altering injuries**, resulting in permanent disease and disability, due to such assaults. Standing up for these members—and for all of you—was not optional; it was **our responsibility**.

We will also continue our efforts to **amend and strengthen language within the Safety Act** to ensure correctional-specific issues are addressed and that the legislation better reflects the realities faced by our profession.

Additionally, we have proposed new language to **HB 4667, the “Duty Carry Bill,”** in collaboration with Senator Terri Bryant. This language will shore up issues with retirees. Senator Bryant is a Lodge member and a steadfast advocate for Corrections. She will advance this language during the upcoming legislative session. To further reinforce our position, we are putting forth similar language that will be introduced at the **federal level** in an effort to compel acceptance by the Illinois Attorney General. Unfortunately, Attorney General Kwame Raoul has been a primary obstacle for retired officers seeking relief under this legislation, and we will continue to push back.

We are also proud to have played a significant role in the **JCAR (Joint Committee on Administrative Rules) emergency ruling** regarding mail scanning in our facilities. As many of you know, staff exposure has been an ongoing and serious concern. With the assistance of our lobbyist, former Senator Tony Munoz, Lodge 263 helped IDOC secure this critical ruling to better protect staff.

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Supporting these legislative efforts requires resources. I am proud to announce that **FOP Corrections Lodge 263 has officially established its own Political Action Committee (PAC)**. This will be a powerful tool in the years ahead as funding grows. The PAC will allow us to support those who support us and will significantly strengthen our ability to engage decision-makers at the Capitol so our voices are heard. If you are interested in contributing, donation information will be made available.

I would like to close by saying **thank you**. Please continue to be the eyes and ears of this Lodge. Your emails, calls, and texts regarding conditions at your facilities are invaluable. They help us remain informed, responsive, and better equipped to advocate on your behalf—and to educate lawmakers about the realities and challenges of the Corrections profession.

A few things to be reminded of, **keep your contact information updated** including email, any name changes and beneficiary changes by utilizing the lodge website Member Update Form. Also, if you are **RETIRING SOON**, submit the SRS deduction form with your retirement package (print from the lodge website), and let us know of this planned milestone! If you are not on Facebook, you can view the page live feeding on the lodge website, this is a quick place to stay informed!

Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your continued belief in this great organization—**FOP Corrections Lodge 263**.

Scot Ward, President

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